

Post Office Employees Quit Work

They Are Members of the National Association of Post Office Clerks and National Association of Letter Carriers But Not Affiliated With the American Federation of Labor.

Fairmont, W. Va.—The post office clerks and letter carriers in this city, who recently tendered their resignation in a body as a protest against working conditions, and who have since been arrested on the charge of interfering with the mails, are members of the United National Association of Postoffice Clerks and the National Association of Letter Carriers. These two organizations are not affiliated to the American Federation of Labor.

Washington.—The strike of twenty-five postoffice clerks and letter carriers, members of non-affiliated organizations of postal workers, at Fairmont, W. Va., can be traced to the interference of departmental officials in trying to prevent employees from organizing effectively, according to Thomas F. Flaherty, Secretary of the National Federation of Postoffice Clerks, affiliated to the American Federation of Labor.

"It has long been the mistaken policy of department officials and postoffice inspectors," said Secretary Flaherty, "that men in the service can be kept docile and tractable if herded into a mutual admiration society controlled by Washington postal officials and used chiefly for political purposes. These officials resent the attempts of the men to control their own organizations. They exert every influence to scare men from the labor movement. The possibility of strike is the favorite argument used against affiliation to the American Fed-

eration of Labor by these high-salaried Government officials.

"The Fairmont incident shows the danger of this policy of tyrannizing employees. These clerks and carriers, feeling aggrieved at a seemingly injustice imposed upon three of their fellow workers and knowing the utter futility of appealing to their department-controlled organizations for support or relief, took drastic action by quitting work in concert. And the very department officials who are responsible for creating the condition that brought about the strike have now ordered the arrest of the men on a charge of conspiracy for delaying the mails. These men are not conspirators. Many of them have worked in the office for years, rendering good, faithful and efficient service.

"There will always be danger of a recurrence of this trouble until the absolute power of demotion and dismissal is taken from the political heads of civil service departments. At present the employees have no appeal from the arbitrary judgment of official bureaucrats. Had these Fairmont postal workers possessed the right to appeal from the ukase of department officials to some detached tribunal this incident would not have occurred. We need a Civil Service Court of Appeals, clothed with power to review the judgment of department heads in cases of discipline, and with the aid of the American Federation of Labor we will seek to have such a court established by the Sixty-fourth Congress."

BUILDING SUB-CONTRACTS

Flat Building—A two-story flat building to be erected on Eden avenue, between Rochelle and Daniels streets. Owner, Peter Pracechler; architect, A. Rieg, 2554 Vine street, Cincinnati, O. Contracts awarded as follows: Carpenter work, Roy Oettinger; plastering, Wm. Stagger; plumbing and heating, the Dauch Heating and Plumbing Co.; painting, Carl Donat; iron work, Wm. Lang & Sons Co.; electric work, the Gem Electric Co.; brick work, House Bros.; roofing and sheet metal work, Harkness & Towler; cut stone, Gregor Dauch, and the balance of the work will be done by the owner.

Residence—Equipment of residence being built on Beechwood driveway and Madison road. Owner, Fred Flach; engineer, Walter G. Franz, Union Trust Building, Cincinnati, O. Contract for electric wiring awarded to the Devore Electric Co.

Residence—Alterations in and addition to residence at 2185 Harrison avenue. Owner, Louisa D. Rickel; architect, E. H. Dornette, Pickering Building, Cincinnati, O. The following contracts have been awarded: Excavation and stone masonry, Fred Doelling; brick work, George Anders; carpenter work, Harry Beckman.

Factory Building—A six-story reinforced concrete addition to be built to factory at Spring Grove avenue and Straight street. Owner, the Huenefeld Co.; architects, Stegner & Hughes, Commercial Tribune Building, Cincinnati, O. Contract for excavation, foundation, concrete and carpenter work awarded to D. Meinken. Cost, about \$150,000.

Power House—A boiler and power building, to be erected on Cleneay avenue, Norwood, O. Owner, the Ault & Wiborg Co.; architects, Tietig & Lee, Fourth National Bank Building, Cincinnati, O. General contract awarded to the Ferro Concrete Construction Co., and for plumbing to Edward Morgan.

HOD CARRIERS ELECT

Will Eat Chicken Next Month.

The Hod Carriers' Union No. 127 held its annual election on December 10th. There was a large and enthusiastic attendance and the following officers were elected: Martin Haggard, president; H. Haygood, vice-president; Philip Smith, secretary; Will Davis, financial secretary; J. W. Shears, treasurer; trustees, Ed Simms, Nathan Lilly, Walter Haney, Nathan McDonald, Sandy Mitchell, guard; Steve Moore, Sergeant-at-arms.

These officers will be installed at the first meeting in January, when the local will give a banquet composed of chicken, pork chops, sweet potatoes and other good things, and the Labor Advocate wishes them a good time and a prosperous New Year.

LABOR LAW OPENS SCHOOLS.

Philadelphia.—Superintendent of Public Schools Garber estimates that about 20,000 working children will be returned to school for eight hours a week after Jan. 1, when the new child labor law, passed by the last legislature, becomes effective.

BREWERS AND MACHINISTS AGREE

Increase in Wages Granted in Three-Year Contract, Which Is To Date Back To Last August, When Old Schedule Expired.

A three-year working agreement, granting machinists an increase in wages of 2½ cents per hour, was effected yesterday between the Brewers' Board of Trade of Cincinnati and the International Association of Machinists at a meeting of committees of both organizations. The agreement affects all breweries employing machinists which are members of the Board of Trade.

The increase will date from last August 14, when the old agreement expired, and the men will be given back pay. The work day will consist of eight hours, the same as under the old agreement. The question of an open or closed shop was not at issue, as the breweries affected only employ union machinists.

"The increase will make a minimum wage scale of 40 cents per hour for these men," said John Doyle, business agent of the International Association of Machinists for Cincinnati and vicinity. "The men have voted to give the amount of their increase weekly to the machinists who are striking for a eight-hour day. They also will donate part of the money they receive for back pay to the Christmas fund for striking machinists and their families."

Among the breweries affected by the agreement are: Bavarian Brewing Company, Covington; George Wiedemann Brewing Company, Newport; the Christian Moerlein Brewing Company, Jung Brewing Company, Wetterer Brewing Company and Hudepohl Brewing Company, Cincinnati.

"There never was any controversy between the two organizations," said Doyle. "The negotiations were of the most friendly sort, but were held up for a time owing to the wet and dry fight," he added.

A dance provided the weekly entertainment last night in machinists' headquarters, 919 Main street, for machinists on strike and their families. About 300 persons were in attendance.

BAD AIR MAKES POOR WORKERS, SAYS LANDIS

"Efficiency and a polluted atmosphere are as incompatible as fire and water," This is the statement of Health Officer Dr. Landis in Wednesday's issue of the Health Bulletin.

He describes conditions in a downtown office, occupied by seven clerks, six of whom will not permit the other one to open a window for ventilation. "In the room," says Dr. Landis, "the heat, moisture and excess of carbonic acid furnishes an environment that threatens the health and lives of all its occupants."

"These men are doing another thing: They are building a barrier between themselves and advancement in position and higher wages. They are doing at least 20 per cent less work than they should in a well-ventilated room."

BENEVOLENT EXPERTS CHILL A DEMOCRACY

San Francisco.—The theory that autocracy "does things," while democracy develops men, is enlarged upon as follows by the Bulletin of this city:

"An English writer, groaning under the confusion of the English party system, prophesies the supersession of parliament by a small committee of unpaid men, who shall be honest, businesslike, and nonpartisan, and shudder at the name of politician."

"His is the dream of the ages—a united nation guided for its own best good by a small number of benevolent experts. It is the ideal of the conscientious military man—of Goethals, for instance. It is a democracy in which the only vote is the vote of confidence; autocracy, in which the autocrat faithfully carries out what he believes to be the enlightened will of the people."

"This idea is spreading a little in our own country. Perhaps it is one cause for the business man's chronic irritation over his government. In our economic life the benevolently efficient autocrat is the figure we are all called upon to fall down and worship. The expectation is that the solution of problems must be found in the mind of the autocratic expert and by him passed out to the people. The expert can draw to himself all the knowledge upon his subject and digest it. In business he can study sources and markets and thus direct production with intelligence; in statesmanship he can predict the future by weighing the past and the present. The people's will is 'the wind's will,' but his will is steady; they tack and veer and are swept from their course by gusts, but he waits steadily along with the trade winds at his back."

"Unrestrained popular self-government is a pain to the expert, because of its aimlessness, its foolish blindness to self interest, and its general failure to adapt its means to its ends. The expert loves results, and the people almost never get the results at which they believe themselves to be aiming."

"Yet never so long as England stands will it be governed by a small committee of unpaid men," and never will the democracy of the United States permanently surrender its delightful freedom to blunder. Democracy is not, and cannot be the most efficient form of government. The most efficient part of the American governmental machine is the boss system, which is frankly feudalistic. But if mankind is destined to progress the attempt at self-government will continue as long as man continues, for this simple reason, that the ends of government are trivial in comparison with the means and methods."

ANTI-RESTRICTION THEORY EXPLODED

Washington.—With the convening of congress last Monday, the American Federation of Labor is preparing to renew its fight for immigration restriction legislation, which has been passed by successive congresses, only to be vetoed by the last three presidents.

A recent document issued by the bureau of naturalization, department of labor, answers the claim of anti-restrictionists that all of our immigrants come to America for the purpose of becoming a part of democratic institutions. In discussing its efforts to interest these immigrants in citizenship, the bureau says:

"While the above figures indicate a large number among the foreign element of this country coming forward for citizenship, the number does not appear relatively very large when it is known that in 1910 there were nearly 14,000,000 foreigners in this country, that of this number 9,000,000 were not citizens, and that the foreign body has been increased nearly 1,000,000 annually since then."

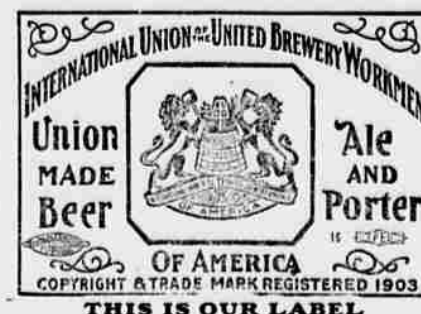
"By far the larger portion of the foreign residents of this country have retained their allegiance to the sovereignty of their birth. Recently, reports in the public press have shown many of these are ready to respond to the best of these sovereignties. It is well known that large numbers returned immediately upon the call of the country of their nativity, leaving the ties, personal, family, industrial, and others, which have grown up in this country, for the stronger call of allegiance to the foreign sovereignty. This was the case prior to the great war of Europe, in the lesser wars among the Balkan States."

"Among the approximately 14,000,000 foreign alien residents, 1,650,361 are classed as illiterates. These illiterates are the natural prey of the designing and scheming foreigners and natives as well, at every turn. They compel them to pay tribute, both in cash and blood, for every service, both real and imagined, and in the gratification of their desires, however unscrupulous or unnatural."

P. O. REVENUES ARE LARGE.

Washington.—November revenues of the 50 largest postoffices of the country, producing approximately one-half of the postal receipts, show an increase of \$2,633,138, or 17.96 per cent for those offices over November a year ago.

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